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FLOOR DEBATE

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human fetal tissue in more than 15 years. And there's contact people here as well. But going back one more time to the Alzheimer's research money, the Institute of Aging distributed \$300 million in research projects related to Alzheimer's disease. Of that \$300 million, only one grant totaling \$113,000 out of \$300 million involves human fetal tissue. So if we're going to talk about, you know, the fact that I'd like to point them out here and once again reiterate what Senator Maxwell has pointed out. I have great faith in the scientists of Nebraska and I have great faith in our institutions. I also have great faith that they will hold true on their promises to find alternatives and to make sure that we can continue research in the state of Nebraska, that the whole state can get behind and support. And I appreciate this opportunity for us to have this discussion on the floor, and look forward to additional discussion this afternoon. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Aguilar.

SENATOR AGUILAR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Originally I hadn't planned to speak or enter on this debate at all, but after listening to some of the heavyweights of this floor take their shots and throw their darts, I felt that I was somewhat drawn into the debate. I was drawn into the debate for two reasons. Some of the comments by senators has seemed to indicate that if you are in favor of LB 462, then you don't want to see a cure found for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and diabetes. Nothing can be farther from the truth. I think it needs to be said that I am personally not antiresearch. My convictions come from a different direction. My convictions are what the bill is aimed at, and that is to protect my constituents out there that are vehemently opposed to the use of fetal cell tissue from elective abortions, no matter what their reasons. It is still their tax dollars funding some of the research at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. And that's where my argument comes from. Senator Janssen drew me into the debate by making the comment, wait till it hits home. Well, in my case it has hit home. My father suffers from Parkinson's and I have rheumatoid arthritis. These are two of the diseases that were discussed on the floor today. So as you can see, no one on this floor wants to see a cure found more than I do. None of you know my father,